

CONURUS RUBRITORQUIS, sp. nov. (Plate LVI.)

Green: white of throat and collar only slightly apparent; at the back of the neck bright red; eye-region naked; bill and feet whitish. Whole length 11·5 inches, wing 5·0, tail 4·7.

Hab. South America or West Indies.

Obs. About the size of *C. enops*, but distinguished by its red throat and green under wing-coverts.

4. On an undescribed *Pimelepterus* from Port Jackson. By J. DOUGLAS OGILBY, Department of Fishes, Aust. Mus. Sydney. (Communicated by F. DAY, C.I.E., F.Z.S.).

[Received November 1, 1886.]

PIMELEPTERUS MERIDIONALIS, sp. nov.

B. vii. D. 10–11/12. A. 3/10. V. 1/5. P. 17. C. 17. L. lat. 57–59. L. tr. 10/19. Cæc. pyl. ca. 460. Vert. 11/15.

Length of head from 4·85 to 5·15, of caudal fin from 4·66 to 5·00, of pectoral fins from 7·00 to 7·20, height of body from 3·00 to 3·20 in the total length. *Eyes*: diameter from 4·00 to 4·50 in the length of the head, from 1·60 to 1·75 in that of the snout, and from 2·00 to 2·30 in the convex interorbital space. Body oblong, compressed; a transverse rounded protuberance in front of the eyes. Cleft of mouth small and transverse; upper jaw rather the longer; the maxilla reaches to below the anterior margin of the orbit. Pre-, sub-, and interopercles entire. *Teeth*: a single row of strong curved conical teeth in each jaw, the horizontal portion of which is of equal length with the vertical; behind these rows are narrow bands of similar but much smaller teeth, which probably are intended to finally replace the outer row; vomer, palatines, and tongue densely crowded with minute teeth¹. *Fins*: dorsal spines of moderate strength, increasing in length to the seventh, which is about one half the length of the head, and much longer than the rays of the dorsal, though only equal to the first anal ray. Pectorals rounded, rather longer than the ventrals, and from two thirds to three fourths the length of the head. Third anal spine longest and strongest; caudal emarginate. *Scales* feebly ctenoid, extending in front of the eyes; much smaller on the head; 18 between the bases of the ventrals and the lateral line, and 8 between that and the base of the sixth dorsal spine; those below the lateral line larger than those above it. *Pseudobranchiæ* well developed. *Gill-rakers* 20. *Colours* dull brownish grey, with a silvery shade below; upper part of head darkest; all the fins dark. Irides a mixture of orange and silver.

¹ In connection with the dentition of *Pimelepterus*, I may mention that *Girella tricuspidata* has a small patch of palatine teeth. Dr. Günther (Cat. i. p. 427) states that "in one species there is a short series of palatine teeth," but he omits mentioning which species possesses this series.

The examples from which this species is described measure respectively 25·10, 26·10, and 28·30 inches, and were all taken in Port Jackson, where this species is locally known as the "Drummer"¹. I have never seen a small specimen of this fish.

Breeding: only one, the largest of my specimens, showed any signs of breeding; this was a male with the milt but little developed; all three were taken during the month of August.

As food: not held in any estimation, and commanding no sale in the market, nevertheless it is, in my opinion, quite equal to the other herbivorous Sparoids.

Habits: in these it is a true rock-fish, dwelling in the crevices and indentations of our rocky shores, where it finds abundant food and shelter; it is not given to roaming, and is only taken by the trammel, one end of which is attached to the shore, against which the mesh must actually lie, or else the fish would assuredly pass inside, whence it happens that this species is almost always caught within a few feet of the shore.

Note.—From Dr. Ramsay's MS. notes on Australian Fishes, I find that, so far back as 1881, he noticed these differences with regard to the dentition, but never published any communication thereon.

5. On the South-African Tortoises allied to *Testudo geometrica*. By G. A. BOULENGER.

[Received November 2, 1886.]

(Plates LVII. & LVIII.)

Upon the suggestion of the Rev. Mr. Fisk, of Cape Town, who has enriched the Society's Menagerie with so many interesting Reptiles, I have undertaken a reexamination of the South-African Tortoises allied to *Testudo geometrica*, and am able to distinguish as many as seven well-marked species, of which the diagnoses follow. The specimens named *T. trimeni*, after the Director of the South-African Museum, and *T. fiski*, were lately exhibited in the Society's Gardens, and were unrepresented in the Natural History Museum. That named *T. smithi*, after the author of the 'Illustrations of South-African Zoology,' is established on a specimen erroneously referred by Gray to *T. verreauxii*. The true *T. verreauxii* being still unrepresented in our collections, its diagnosis is compiled from Smith's description and figure.

¹ It shares the name with *Girella elevata*, Macleay, and *Pachymetopon grande*, Günth. In the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History' for November 1886, Dr. Günther described *Pimelepterus sydneyanus*, n. sp., from Port Jackson, and suggested that *Pachymetopon grande* (Cat. Austr. Fish. i. p. 106) may be *Pimelepterus fuscus*, Lacépède, and that *Pachymetopon squamosum*, Macleay and Alleyne (Proc. Linn. N. S. Wales, i. p. 275, pl. ix. f. 1), may be *Pimelepterus cinerascens*, Forsk., or *P. tahmel*, Rüppell.